

## A new *Platycerus*, and a new *Pleocoma*.

BY H. C. FALL, Pasadena, Cal.

The following fine species of *Platycerus* and *Pleocoma* are somewhat recent discoveries of Mr. Ralph Hopping, of Kaweah, California. They are quite distinct from all previously-described forms as will be seen from the following descriptions and comparisons:

### *Platycerus opacus* n. sp.

*Male*.—Moderately convex, black, entire surface finely alutaceous and dull, the head and prothorax a little less so than the elytra. Scape of antennæ very nearly twice as long as the funicle, the latter  $\frac{2}{3}$  as long as the club; first funicular joint as long as the next two, sixth slightly acutely produced inward; first two joints of club subequal and about twice as wide as long, last joint nearly as long as wide. Mandibles small. Head coarsely densely punctured and sparsely hairy. Prothorax  $\frac{1}{2}$  wider than long, widest at or just before the basal third, where it is strongly rounded but not angulate; sides feebly arcuate and strongly convergent anteriorly, still more rapidly converging to the deep sinuation before the basal angles, which are sharply defined, a little acute and everted; surface densely but not coarsely punctate laterally, less densely but still closely and a little irregularly toward the middle, a narrow median incomplete impunctate line; lateral margin flattened at the point of greatest width, narrowing before and behind. Elytra very little wider than, and not quite twice as long as the prothorax,  $1\frac{2}{3}$  times as long as wide, subparallel, striæ represented by unimpressed series of very fine punctures, which are scarcely distinguishable from those of the intervals and are in great part confused with them. Legs rather slender, the hind tarsi about  $\frac{2}{3}$  as long as the tibiæ.

*Female*.—Large and more convex than the male, the elytra a little more arcuate at sides; antennal funicle very slightly shorter than the club, the first two joints of the latter more strongly transverse; hind tarsi  $\frac{1}{2}$  the length of the tibiæ.

Length ♂, 8.5-10 mm.; ♀, 10.5-12.5 mm. Width ♂, 3.5-4.1 mm.; ♀, 4.8-5.5 mm.

Described from a series of 4 ♂'s and 3 ♀'s taken by Mr. Hopping at Clear Creek (June 5-12) and South Fork of Kaweah River (Jan. 28-30), California. "Both these localities"—writes Mr. Hopping—"are in the Sequoia National Park, and the beetles occur in the Black Oak or Upper Chaparral belt, at an elevation of 4000 to 5000 feet, and so far have only been found by digging, or where earth was being removed from the upper roadbank."

*Opacus* is to be associated with *thoracicus* Csy. and *latus* Fall, by its form and tarsal structure, but is very different from either in its subopaque surface and fine sculpture.

***Pleocoma hoppingi* n. sp.**

*Male*.—Oblong oval, sides of elytra nearly parallel, color above and beneath bright reddish brown, shining, head prothorax and underbody densely clothed with long fulvous hair. Antennæ very nearly as in *hirticollis*, clypeal horn deeply triangularly notched, lateral ante-ocular processes subquadrate, their outer edge parallel with the axis of the body (triangular in *hirticollis*, the external edge strongly oblique); vertical horn emarginate at tip. Prothorax not quite twice as wide as long, hind angles obtuse but fairly distinct, sides before them very slightly convergent and just perceptibly sinuate, then rounded and strongly convergent to apex; basal margin evenly arcuate from side to side; disk evenly convex, only slightly flattened anteriorly, surface rather densely coarsely punctate at the middle in front, less densely and somewhat more finely at sides and posteriorly, a small subimpunctate area each side of the middle of the disk. Elytra barely  $\frac{3}{4}$  as wide as long, sutural stria deep, geminate striæ feeble, punctuation fine and sparse, sides almost smooth. The female differs as usual in its larger size and stouter form which is wider behind; the prothorax is glabrous and nearly uniformly punctate throughout; the elytra are more closely and strongly punctate than in the male, being virtually as closely and strongly so as the prothorax; the clypeal notch is small, the sides obtusely rounded; the ante-ocular processes formed as in the male.

Length ♂, 23-26 mm.; ♀, 30 mm. Width ♂, 13-14 mm.; ♀ 20 mm.

Described from a series taken by Mr. Ralph Hopping on the South Fork of the Kaweah River, Cal., and bearing dates Jan. 25 and Feb. 4.

Because of its octo-lamellate antennæ, and closely punctate and hairy prothorax, this species is comparable only with *hirticollis*. The latter, as we understand, is a distinctly smaller and stouter species, the male always black or nearly so when mature, the hair of a paler yellow, prothorax declivous and plainly flattened in front, the posterior margin bisinuate, the elytra more strongly punctured. There are some discrepancies between the original description of Schaufuss and the later ones of LeConte and Horn, and there is therefore a possibility that our interpretation of *hirticollis* is erroneous. In Schaufuss's description the prothorax is said to be almost three times as wide as long, while Horn says "more than twice as

wide as long." As a matter of fact the width is barely twice the length in both *hirticollis* and *hoppingi*, and it is probable that both authors have given the relative dimensions from a vertical view point, in which case there would be considerable fore-shortening. I take pleasure in dedicating this fine species to friend Hopping, whose explorations in the Californian Sierras have brought to light not a few new and interesting species.

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### Notes on Moths.

BY CAROLINE GRAY SOULE.

At one time there was some discussion of the cause of difference in the forms of cocoons of *Attacus cecropia*, and some very positive statement that the baggy cocoon was always found low on the shrub or tree and in damp lowland places.

Last September I found three huge *cecropia* larvæ feeding on red-berried elder by the roadside, in a dry, sunny place. They were so large that I took them, put them in a large box with twigs fastened vertically and horizontally, and the larvæ spun the next day.

One made a normal, slender cocoon on a horizontal twig; another made a very baggy cocoon on a vertical twig; the third made a rather baggy one, of a green color except on one side where the normal brown predominated. This cocoon was on a horizontal twig, and against the side of the box.

On June 9th were laid eggs of *Hemileuca budleyi* from moths descended from two pairs of moths received in 1903.

Their egg-period was 36 days; 1st stage, 7 days; 2d stage, 5 days; 3rd stage, 8 days; 4th stage, 7 days; 5th stage, 10 days; 6th stage, 10 days; 7th stage, 16 days, making 63 days from egg to cocoon, and a sixth moult, which had not occurred in any former brood. Although "bred in" for three generations they were very large, fine specimens, but very slow in all their stages. One correspondent, to whom I had sent eggs, wrote that his brood left the wild cherry tree on which he had placed them, and marched eight or ten feet to a small apple tree where he found them feeding and thriving.